

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 11750 291340Z

64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

AID-05 SAM-01 /073 W

----- 009649

R 291027Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 947

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11750

FOLG SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS AS
BOMBAY 2212 DTD AUG 28 RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: DS

TAGS: PINT PFOR IN

SUBJ: "CLARITY" AUGUST 23 ARTICLE ON CIA

REF NEW DELHI 11508

1. BPAO WHITE RAISED "CLARITY" ARTICLE ON CIA INVOLVEMENT IN BANGLADESH COUP WITH WEEKLY'S EDITORS ALONG LINES INSTRUCTIONS. MEETING TOOK PLACE AT USIS, AS "CLARITY" EDITOR NEELKANT SAMANT, WHEN APPROACHED FOR APPOINTMENT, SAID HE WOULD BE IN NEIGHBORHOOD AND PREFERRED TO COME TO BPAO'S OFFICE. SAMANT, WHO IS RECENTLY APPOINTED FIGUREHEAD EDITOR, SHOWED UP WITH S.B. KOLPE, WHO IS CONSIDERED DE FACTO EDITOR OF "CLARITY" AND IS MEMBER OF WEEKLY'S EDITORIAL BOARD. KOLPE, KNOWN LEFTIST AND TRADE UNIONIST, IS ALSO ASSISTANT EDITOR BOMBAY'S FREE PRESS JOURNAL AND WAS NOT NAMED "CLARITY" EDITOR DUE TO FREE PRESS'S OBJECTIONS.

2. BPAO PROTESTED SUBJECT ARTICLE, SAYING IT WAS ABSOLUTELY FALSE, QUOTED HIGHLY PREJUDICED SOURCES, CONTAINED FLAGRANT AND OBJECTIONABLE EDITORIALIZING AND IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTED TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 11750 291340Z

BETTERMENT OF INDO-U.S. RELATIONS WHICH WE TRYING TO IMPROVE FROM

OUR SIDE.

3. KOLPE, WHO DID ALL TALKING IN INTERVIEW, GAVE NO REAL REPLY TO COMPLAINT, EXCEPT TO SAY THERE WERE MANY RUMORS ABOUT CIA CIRCULATING IN INDIA AND THAT "U.S. PRESS HAD PLENTY TO SAY ON CIA." HE SAID ARTICLE HAD BEEN WRITTEN BY ONE OF "CLARITY'S CONTRIBUTORS."

4. AT ONE POINT, WHEN DISCUSSING OUR DESIRE TO IMPROVE INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, KRR SAID, "YES, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD..." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "CLARITY" HAD MODIFIED EARLIER LEAD ARTICLE IN EDITORIAL ON BANGLADESH IN CURRENT AUGUST 30 ISSUE WHICH BEGINS "IT WILL BE TOO FACILE TO EXPLAIN AWAY THE BARBARIC KILLINGS IN BANGLADESH ONLY IN TERMS OF THE CIA CONSPIRACY TO INDUCT ITS POLITICS OF DE-STABILISATION INTO THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT." THOUGH EDITORIAL THEN STATES "INVISIBLE HAND OF CIA...CAN BE DETECTED IN THE DACCA OPERATIONS" IT GOES ON TO SAY THAT "DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND ANTI-PEOPLE POSTURE WITHIN THE RULING PARTY LARGELY CONTRIBUTED TO THE NEW SITUATION." IN SEPARATE FRONTPAGE ARTICLE "MUJIB: VICTIM OF VENDETTA?" IN AUGUST 30 ISSUE STATEMENT MADE THAT "TIME ALONE WILL UNFOLD THE ENTIRE STORY OF THE DACCA KILLINGS. BUT THOSE CARRIED OUT THE CIA-BACKED PLOT HAD, OBVIOUSLY, NOTHING BUT DEEP-SEATED ANIMUS AGAINST THE SHEIKH."

5. IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT ON CENSORSHIP, KOLPE SAID QUESTION OF CENSORSHIP DID NOT ARISE IN ARTICLE OF THIS SORT. HE SAID THEY HAD RECENTLY STOPPED PRE-CENSORSHIP PRACTICES PREVIOUSLY IN FORCE AND NOW WERE ONLY RESPONSIBLE AFTER FACT, WITH RESTRICTIONS MAINLY ON REPORTING ABOUT MRS GANDHI AND OPPOSITION PARTIES, LEADERS. ("CLARITY" LEADERS REPORTEDLY CLOSE TO RAJNI PATEL, BPCC PRESIDENT, AND OTHERS IN CONGRESS CIRCLES. FOR THIS AND OTHER REASONS, "CLARITY" PROBABLY GETS KID-GLOVE TREATMENT FROM CENSORS).

6. INTERVIEW WAS FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT, WITH KOLPE STATING THAT, THOUGH "CLARITY" WAS WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS LEFTIST VIEWPOINT, IT WANTED INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS TO IMPROVE.

7. COMMENT: I WOULD ONLY ADD VIEW AND WHITE SHARES IT THAT WHILE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 11750 291340Z

"CLARITY" MAY THINK THAT IT HAS BACKED OFF SOMEWHAT IN TAKING THE POSITION IN ITS CURRENT ISSUE THAT THE CIA IS PERHAPS NOT SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MUJIB'S ASSASSINATION, THE SUBTLETY IS LARGELY LOST ON US. IT STILL TALKS ABOUT THE "CIA-BACKED PLOT" AND ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION, ALTHOUGH IT PROFESSES NOT TO KNOW ALL THE DETAILS AND PERSONALITIES INVOLVED. WE WOULD ONLY ADD THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE LEFTWING PRESS WILL BACK OFF UNLESS DELHI PASSES THE WORD TO THEM TO DO SO. BANE

UNQUOTE

SAXBE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE11750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750300-0663
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975085/aaaaadyf.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 11508
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "CLARITY" AUGUST 23 ARTICLE ON CIA
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN, BG, US, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006